



For Release July 15, 2002

WATERVILLE PLANT NOTICE OF EAW AVAILABILITY

The Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Waterville Plant is now available. The Waterville plant is a 46-megawatt, combined-cycle (CCTG), natural gas electric generating plant on a four acre site located on the Reliant Energy-Minnegasco's property at the intersection of Highway 13 and 270th Street SW, south of Waterville, Minnesota. Simon Entergy I, LLC proposes to own, construct, and operate the plant.

The plant will consist of one General Electric (GE) PG5361P Frame 5 simple cycle combustion turbine generator (CTG) package, one heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) with associated steam turbine generator (STG). The HRSG will be equipped with an integral selective catalyst reduction (SCR) module for combined cycle operation. The CTG bypass stack will be 50 feet tall with an outer diameter of 10 feet, and the HRSG stack will be 60 feet tall with an outer diameter of 10 feet. The plant will have a backup diesel generator of approximately 750 kW that will operate on number 2 fuel oil. The diesel generator will provide black start capability to the plant during system wide blackouts. The fuel oil will be stored onsite in an above ground storage tanks with a total capacity of less than 1,500 gallons.

The electrical output will be connected to the Xcel Energy existing 115 kV transmission line located along Highway 13. The new transmission line will head directly west from the plant's substation approximately 500 feet to the existing Xcel Energy transmission line. A natural gas pipeline will connect the plant to the existing Reliant Energy-Minnegasco transmission natural gas pipeline located to the north of the project site. The new 6 inch lateral gas pipeline will be approximately 400 feet long and operate at a maximum pressure of 485 psi.

An Environmental Assessment Worksheet is required for any electric generating plant with an output between 25 and 50 megawatts to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is needed for the project. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board is the governmental unit responsible for preparing the EAW. The EAW can be reviewed at the Environmental Conservation Library 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis and at the EQB office at the address below. It is also available on EQB website at:

<http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/>

Comments on the EAW must be received by 4:30 p.m. on August 15, 2002, to be included in the record. Comments or questions should be directed to William Cole Storm, EQB, Room 300, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN, 55155, 651-296-9535.

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